

# ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

**Truly Free**  
**Acts 15**

**15:1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”** <sup>2</sup> And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. <sup>3</sup> So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. <sup>5</sup> But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

**<sup>6</sup> The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup> And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, <sup>9</sup> and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”**

**22** Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, <sup>23</sup> with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. <sup>24</sup> Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, <sup>25</sup> it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, <sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**<sup>27</sup> We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. <sup>28</sup> For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: <sup>29</sup> that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”**

# EVEREST

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY



# The Fight for the Gospel

**15:1** But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

**15:6** The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.  
**7** And after there had been much debate...

**What is the meaning of life?  
How do you figure it out?**

***If this doctrine is lost, then is also the whole knowledge of the truth, life and salvation lost. If this doctrine flourishes, then all good things flourish.***

***Martin Luther***

# The Freeness of the Gospel

*How can I get satisfied; fulfilled; clean?*

<sup>3</sup> the conversion  
of the Gentiles

<sup>7</sup> The word of  
the “Gospel”

<sup>9</sup> and he made no  
distinction between us  
and them, having cleansed  
their hearts by faith.

<sup>11</sup> But we believe that we  
will be saved through  
the grace of the Lord  
Jesus just as they will.”

**Jesus Plus Nothing**



**10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”**

**Do we then do nothing? Do we do nothing at all for the obtaining of this righteousness? I answer, Nothing at all! For this is perfect righteousness, to do nothing, to hear nothing, to know nothing of the law, or of works, but to know and believe this only, that Christ is gone to the Father, and is not now seen; that He sits in heaven at the right hand of His Father, not as judge, but made unto us of God, wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption - - briefly, that He is our high priest entreating for us, and reigning over us, and in us, by grace.**

**Martin Luther, Commentary on Galatians**

# The Freedom of the Gospel

*How do I stay clean?*

Ok...that's fine. Salvation is free.  
But certainly we have requirements once we are

**Gal 5:1**

**For freedom Christ has set us free;  
stand firm therefore, and do not  
submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

**It's STILL  
Jesus Plus Nothing**

**Nothing you do can make God love you any more**

**Nothing you do can make God love you any less**

**Although I am a sinner by the law and under condemnation of the law, yet I do not despair, yet I do not die, because Christ lives, who is both my righteousness and my everlasting life.**

**- Martin Luther**

**We Can't Out-sin  
God's Grace**

**“It is Finished”**

**On the cross Jesus didn't just remove your sins,  
He gave you his life-justification.**

**We are not left at “zero” with the requirement to add,  
We are brought to perfection with the invitation to live.**

# The Freedom to Love

**28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:**  
**29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”**

**Not a “yoke” but life-guide:**

- 1) Love God (vs. pagan worship)**
- 2) Love Others**

**What you do doesn't impact God's love for you,  
but God's love for you impacts what you do.**

***4 All that God had done with them...***

# Living Free

**1. Give up.**

**You'll never “be enough” in your own effort  
(<sup>3</sup> *the conversion of the Gentiles*)**

**2. Do you relate with God through shame, fear and guilt,  
or joy, safety and hope?**

**3. How are you trying to earn God's favor  
or make up for your failures?**

**4. What standard do you use to judge others  
in the church as well as outside the church?**

# Living Free

**There is therefore now  
no condemnation for those  
who are in Christ Jesus.  
(Rom 12:1)**

**For freedom Christ  
has set us free.  
(Gal 5:1)**

## **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

**For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**